

The Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA)

1. The Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) protects archaeological resources on lands managed by the Federal Government. White Sands Missile Range is renowned for being one of the most pristine archaeological and historical areas of the United States. Archaeological resources are an irreplaceable part of our national heritage, and have become increasingly endangered because of their commercial attractiveness.
2. The purpose of ARPA is to secure for the present and future benefit of the American people, federal protection of archaeological/historic resources and sites located on Federal lands. Within the boundaries of White Sands Missile Range, the ARPA prohibits the excavation, removal, damaging or otherwise altering, defacing, collecting or sale of any archaeological or historical artifacts. Due to WSMR's vast size, many of the archaeological sites at WSMR have yet to be discovered.
3. The Environmental Stewardship Division must be contacted in the early planning stage of any project that might have an adverse effect on archaeological or historical resources. Such projects would include those involving alteration to the surface of the earth, historic structures, ruins, or historic objects, and the discovery of or collection of artifacts from these sites. Should you observe anyone possibly violating these laws or discover what you believe could be an archaeological site or item, please contact the Environmental Stewardship Division at (505) 678-2224 and Security Directorate at (505) 678-1234 for further guidance. Violation of the ARPA may result in civil and criminal prosecution (or both), substantial monetary fines, and incarceration.
4. I know all of you want to join me in the protection and conservation of these valuable finite cultural resources.

WILLIAM F. ENGEL
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

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